

News from the Wyoming Department of Health

Friday, July 9, 2010

Applications Sought for Loan Repayment Program

The Wyoming Department of Health is accepting applications from qualified medical professionals who would like help paying their student loans in exchange for practicing in Wyoming.

The Wyoming Healthcare Professional Loan Repayment Program repays physicians, dentists and allied healthcare providers for costs of eligible educational loans in return for a commitment to practice in an underserved area in Wyoming for a minimum of three years.

“In a recent survey, 100 percent of the physicians who considered practicing in another state identified the Wyoming Healthcare Professional Loan Repayment Program as critical in their initial decision to practice in Wyoming,” said Sharla Allen, Office of Rural Health manager with the Wyoming Department of Health.

“Our efforts are paying off,” Allen continued. “Wyoming’s loan repayment program has helped recruit and retain more healthcare professionals into our state’s areas of greatest need than three federal programs combined.”

Physicians and dentists are eligible to receive up to \$90,000 over a three-year period, and other eligible healthcare professionals are eligible for up to \$30,000 over a three-year period. The program is competitive with emphasis given to counties and certain medical specialties and professions of greatest need.

Applications can be completed on-line at <http://health.wyo.gov/rfhd/rural/loan.html> and are due by September 30. All current and future licensed healthcare professionals are eligible to apply; those not currently licensed in Wyoming may apply up to one year prior to obtaining their license.

Allen expects her office to receive more than 300 applications for the program during the 90-day application window.

Please contact the Office of Rural Health at 307-777-2930 or email jeff.hopkins@health.wyo.gov for more information on this or other healthcare loan repayment or scholarship programs.

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